

CLAIM AMENDMENTS

Please replace the pending claims with the following claim listing:

1-25. (Cancelled)

26. (New) A method of decontaminating an enclosed space comprising the steps of:
producing hydrogen peroxide/water vapour from an aqueous solution of hydrogen peroxide;

creating a heated airstream;

flash evaporating the aqueous solution of hydrogen peroxide/water vapour from the supply into the airstream; and

introducing the airstream carrying the hydrogen peroxide/water vapour into the atmosphere in the enclosed space to decontaminate the space, wherein the atmosphere in the enclosed space is recirculated and hydrogen peroxide/water vapour is flash evaporated into the recirculating atmosphere until the dewpoint is reached and condensation of hydrogen peroxide/water vapour on the surfaces of the enclosure takes place to decontaminate the surfaces.

27. (New) A method as claimed in claim 26, wherein after the dew point of the vapour has been reached and condensation of hydrogen peroxide/water vapour on the surfaces of the enclosure has taken place, the hydrogen peroxide is removed from the enclosed space.

28. (New) A method as claimed in claim 27, wherein the condensation of the hydrogen peroxide/water vapour is measured by a monitor and when the condensation has reached a requisite level, air flow containing hydrogen peroxide/water vapour is terminated.

29. (New) A method as claimed in claim 27, wherein condensation is measured in the enclosure at a number of locations by condensation monitors to ensure that condensation has taken place throughout the enclosure.

30. (New) A method as claimed in claim 26, wherein air carrying hydrogen peroxide/water vapour is introduced into the enclosure until a predetermined concentration of hydrogen peroxide/water vapour in the atmosphere in the enclosure has been reached after which introduction of the air is terminated and the hydrogen peroxide is removed.

31. (New) A method as claimed in claim 30, wherein biological indicators are used in the enclosure to determine when the concentration of hydrogen peroxide/water vapour in the atmosphere in the enclosure has reached the requisite level following which the hydrogen peroxide is removed.

32. (New) A method as claimed in claim 26, wherein the heated air carrying hydrogen peroxide/water vapour is delivered as a jet within the enclosure.

33. (New) A method as claimed in claim 32, wherein the heated air carrying hydrogen peroxide/water vapour is delivered in a universally rotating jet to distribute the vapour throughout the enclosure.

34. (New) A method as claimed in claim 26, wherein one or more fans are provided spaced from the source of air carrying hydrogen peroxide/ water vapour into the enclosure to deliver the air carrying the vapour to remote locations of the enclosure from the source.

35. (New) A method as claimed in claim 26, wherein the vapour of hydrogen peroxide and water also contains peracetic acid.

36. (New) A method as claimed in claim 26, wherein the solution from which the hydrogen peroxide/water vapour is produced contains 30 to 35% hydrogen peroxide and a balance of water.

37. (New) A method as claimed in claim 35, wherein the solution from which the hydrogen peroxide solution is produced comprises 15% hydrogen peroxide, 0.5% peracetic acid and a balance of water.

38. (New) A method as claimed in claim 26, wherein hydrogen peroxide is removed by circulating the air containing hydrogen peroxide over a catalyst.

39. (New) A method as claimed in claim 26, wherein the enclosure has a heating/ventilation air conditioning system, the hydrogen peroxide being removed from the enclosure using the heating/ventilation air conditioning system.

40. (New) A method as claimed in claim 26, wherein a plurality of heated air flows are provided to which the hydrogen peroxide/water vapour is added to provide a plurality of flows of heated air carrying hydrogen peroxide/water vapour at different locations in the enclosure.

41. (New) A method as claimed in claim 26, wherein the method is controlled from outside the enclosure.

42. (New) A method as claimed in claim 26, wherein the air is dehumidified to reduce the relative humidity in the enclosure to a predetermined level prior to delivering heated air containing hydrogen peroxide/water vapour to the enclosure.

43. (New) A method as claimed in claim 42, wherein the air is dehumidified using an air conditioned system for the enclosed space.

44. (New) A method as claimed in claim 26, wherein a portable apparatus is used in the enclosure having a duct with a fan for delivering air through the duct, a filter for filtering air entering the duct, a heater for heating air passing through the duct and means for delivering hydrogen peroxide/water vapour to the air passing through the duct and a nozzle for delivery of air carrying hydrogen peroxide/ water vapour from the duct, the nozzle being rotated universally to distribute the hydrogen peroxide/water vapour throughout the enclosure, circulation of air carrying the hydrogen peroxide/water vapour through the duct causing decontamination of the duct.

45. (New) An apparatus for decontaminating an enclosed space comprising:

means for providing a flow of heated air;

means for delivering a liquid decontaminant to the heated air to be evaporated into the heated air to produce an air stream containing a vapour of the decontaminant for delivery to a space to be decontaminated; and

a self contained unit comprising a duct to be positioned within the enclosed space having an inlet end and an outlet end, a fan for causing air to flow from the enclosed space through the duct, a filter for filtering air at the inlet end of the duct, means for holding a supply of aqueous hydrogen peroxide solution, means for delivering aqueous hydrogen peroxide solution from the means for holding to a heater to flash evaporate the aqueous hydrogen peroxide to produce hydrogen peroxide/water vapour which is entrained in the air flow passing through the duct, a nozzle at the outlet end of the duct and means to rotate the nozzle universally to deliver hydrogen peroxide/water vapour throughout the enclosure, all internal and external surfaces of the apparatus open to the enclosure being exposed to the hydrogen peroxide/water vapour carrying air in the enclosure to decontaminate the surfaces.

46. (New) An apparatus as claimed in claim 45, wherein the components of the apparatus are mounted in a support for transport of the apparatus.

47. (New) An apparatus as claimed in claim 46, wherein the self-contained unit is a mobile or portable unit for movement from location to location where it is to be used.

48. (New) An apparatus as claimed in claim 47, wherein the supply of hydrogen peroxide/water vapour and/or the nozzle and means to rotate the nozzle are readily removable for transport of the apparatus.

49. (New) An apparatus as claimed in claim 45 further comprising a control box for controlling operation of the apparatus, wherein means are provided for delivering air carrying hydrogen peroxide/water vapour from the atmosphere in the enclosure through the control box to decontaminate inner surfaces of the control box.

50. (New) An apparatus as claimed in claim 45 further comprising a separate monitoring unit for monitoring the temperature of the atmosphere in the enclosure and the concentration of hydrogen peroxide/water vapour in the atmosphere, wherein means are provided for delivering a flow of air carrying hydrogen peroxide/water vapour through the enclosure of the monitoring unit to decontaminate interior surfaces of the monitoring unit.